



INTERNSHIP ANNOUNCEMENT

Graduate Student Program Intern Technical Services Biology Division

Full or Part-Time Volunteer Positions

The California Coastal Commission is a state agency charged with protecting coastal resources and managing coastal development in California. The mission of the Commission is to provide for balanced use of the coastal zone and to protect, restore, and enhance coastal and marine resources for the continuing benefit of current and future generations. The California Coastal Commission was established by voter initiative in 1972 and later made permanent by the Legislature through adoption of the California Coastal Act of 1976. The coastal zone, which was specifically mapped by the Legislature, covers an area larger than the State of Rhode Island. On land the coastal zone varies in width from several hundred feet in highly urbanized areas up to five miles in certain rural areas, and offshore the coastal zone includes a three-mile-wide band of ocean. A California Coastal Commission Technical Services Division Biology Internship is a great opportunity to learn more about how a government agency functions and to obtain useful job experience for pursuit of a professional career in biology, restoration science, biological evaluation and monitoring, environmental consulting, environmental planning, or environmental policy.

The Position

The California Coastal Commission is seeking motivated individuals to assist in projects involving coastal biology, coastal policy, and their intersection. The position will involve directly working with Commission ecologists on projects that involve coastal ecology and biology. There is no stipend available at this time however the position offers valuable job experience in several areas including climate change, renewable energy, environmentally sensitive coastal habitats and species, invasive species, fire ecology, coastal armoring, and experimental design, to name a few.

Potential projects include:

- Working with staff ecologists on various development applications
- Research on coastal habitats and species for the California Coastal Commission regional guide series
- Climate change biodiversity and habitat adaptation strategy research
- Contribute to the development of reference site standards for specific habitat sites
- Contribute to the development of an information guide on living with fire.

- Compiling information on impacts of wind turbines on birds and bats
- Updating “biotools” (California Coastal Commission Technical Services Division Biology website) including developing information sheets on:
 - California Coastal Commission requirement for native plant landscaping in the coastal zone
 - Revision of existing info sheet on criteria for restoration projects
 - Revision of existing info sheet on criteria for monitoring plans
 - Development of habitat and species fact sheets
 - Biology “fun fact”, concern, tip, “can you believe” thought of the month

Qualifications.

Knowledge of the Coastal Act, CEQA and NEPA, terrestrial and marine habitats, and some experience with experimental design and biological restoration and monitoring is desired. Persons with the following education and/or work experience would be preferred: biological or ecological research, environmental science, biological restoration and monitoring, experimental design, or related fields. Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree and be proficient using a computer. The successful candidate(s) will demonstrate strong analytical skills and the ability to research and interpret coastal natural resource issues. Strong writing and speaking skill and the ability to work as a team member is critical.

Eligibility

Graduate student in a college or university of recognized standing studying ecology, biology, environmental science, environmental planning, environmental policy, physical geography or a related field.

Requirements

Minimum commitment of one quarter or semester and a minimum of 16 hours per week. Two or more quarters or semesters are preferred. At least one day per week must be spent in the California Coastal Commission Ventura Office.

Deadlines

Interested students should submit a letter and resume to Jonna Engel at least two weeks prior to the beginning of fall, winter, spring quarter or summer session (see contact info below). Please feel free to contact Dr. Engel by email or phone to discuss the internship and any questions you have.

Contact Info

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